## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 EUR-08 TRSE-00 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 OMB-01 IO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /045 W

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O R 231047Z DEC 76 FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4530 INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL FREETOWN 4100

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS TAGS: EFIN, SL

SUBJ: IMF MISSION TO SIERRA LEONE

REF: STATE 309440

- 1. EMBASSY HAS NOT COMPLETED REPORT OF RECENT IMF VISIT, BECAUSE SITUATION TOO COMPLEX AT THIS STAGE. FULL REPORT CAN BE EXPECTED NEXT WEEK.
- 2. REFTEL CONTAINS SOME TRUTH AND SOME INACCURACIES. RELIABLE LOCAL OBSERVERS DO NOT BELIEVE GOSL QUOTE REJECTED UNQUOTE IMF PROPOSALS. APPARENTLY STEVENS WAS VISIBLY SHAKEN BY DECEMBER 13 MEETING. SUBSEQUENT STEPS HAVE BEEN AND ARE BEING TAKEN THAT GOSL HOPES WILL SATISFY IMF WHEN THEY RETURN IN LATE FEBRUARY. GOSL BELIEVES COMPROMISE WAS AGREED UPON AND GOSL ACTING IN GOOD FAITH. STEPS BEING UNDERTAKEN INCLUDE FIFTEEN PERCENT CUT IN GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE, TEN PERCENT REDUCTION IN SIZE OF CIVIL SERVICE, SEVERAL ADDED REVENUE MEASURES, AND OTHER ITEMS.
- 3. FCO MAY HAVE BEEN ACTING ON INADEQUATE REPORTING FROM HIGH CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMISSION IN FREETOWN, NOW STAFFED WITH RELATIVE NEWCOMERS TO FREETOWN SCENE. KEY IMF CONTACTS FOR DEPARTMENT ARE CHARLES MERWIN, US NATIONL, HEAD OF TEAM, AND JOE KEYES, TEAM MEMBER AND LONG-TIME FOLLOWER OF GOSL ECONOMY. SAMUELS

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## Message Attributes

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TAGS: EFIN, SL, IMF To: STATE

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